



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

November 8, 2004



This view of the East Front Plaza taken Thursday, November 4, 2004, from the top of the Library of Congress dome shows the entire CVC roof deck completely in place. More than 125,000 granite paving stones have been installed on the Plaza deck and the soil beds near the face of the building are expected to receive sod during the next two weeks. The CVC south entrance is clearly visible (foreground center) while above the entrance zone, blue tarps were laid to protect newly-placed concrete from wet weather that was expected later in the day. Meanwhile, dump trucks continue to deliver soil (bottom right corner) to backfill the sloping zones that will lead visitors coming from the east to the CVC entrances.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 11/08/04 through 11/12/04

East Front Plaza Highlights:

- All major concrete placements have been completed and crews are now working on stairwells and interior blockwork.
- Soil now fills both of the rectangular zones in front of the original north and south wings near the face of the Capitol. Grass sod will be delivered during the next two weeks.
- Stone masons have now placed more than 125,000 granite pavers on the CVC roof deck. The pavers will cover the western half of the CVC roof deck in time for the inauguration in January 2005.
- All of the interior concrete structural walls for the visitor screening zone have been completed.
- The Congressional Auditorium's mezzanine level concrete floor slab has been placed and concrete placements continue on the lower level.
- Crews continue to build mechanical spaces, erect interior blockwork, and install utilities throughout the site.
- Concrete work has been completed for the egress stairwell adjacent to the Capitol on the north side of the Center Steps.



In unusually warm November weather, a stone crew installs granite pavers near the House steps.

East Front Extension (EFE) (Inside the Capitol)

- Crews continue to erect structural steel inside the EFE and continue with demolition activities to clear the way for elevator shafts, escalators, stairwells and new mechanical systems.
- Concrete placements will continue this week on both the north and south sides of the EFE for new stairs and walls.

Truck Tunnel Construction

- Crews have completed backfilling the area above the truck tunnel along Northwest Drive, except for one small area where perimeter security work needs to occur first, and they will continue laying wire mesh this week for the base concrete slab for Northwest Drive. Concrete placements may occur in this zone later in the week. All the curbstones within the CVC project requirements have been reinstalled and the remaining curbstones will be replaced as part of the perimeter security work occurring concurrently within this zone.
- Work has begun to restore the aggregate stone sidewalks along New Jersey Avenue NW and Constitution Avenue NW.
- Trucks delivering materials to the CVC site may begin using the truck tunnel later this month.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- Crews may begin this week to remove the temporary bridge on First Street SE above the tunnel zone. Traffic patterns may be slightly affected although a lane shift will most likely occur later next week.
- Crews will continue to place concrete (more than 75 percent complete), install waterproofing (80 percent complete) and assemble formwork for the tunnel walls and roof along the western half of the LOC tunnel within the CVC site.
- Concrete placements will occur this week for the base tunnel slab on the LOC (east) side of First Street.
- The concrete slab below First Street SE has been placed.

Next Week – 11/15/04 – 11/19/04

East Front Plaza Work

- Workers will continue placing the granite paving stones on the CVC roof deck.
- Workers will continue to install utilities, build mechanical spaces, place concrete and erect blockwork to form and define interior spaces.

East Front Extension

- Steel crews will continue to erect steel and place concrete within the East Front concrete structure. Demolition of structural elements and clearing activities will continue on all levels within the East Front.

Truck Tunnel Construction

- Restoration of portions of the Northwest Drive roadbed and sidewalks will continue. Concrete pours will occur for the base roadbed slab along the lower portion of Northwest Drive just south and east of Constitution Avenue.



Most of the concrete slabs have been placed for the mezzanine and lower level of the Congressional Auditorium. The tiered seating structure is visible in the center of the photo.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- Formwork assembly, concrete placements and waterproofing will continue in various zones along the LOC tunnel route. Pedestrian access will continue along the east side of the work zone. Existing traffic patterns may change slightly depending upon the progress of the removal of the temporary bridge along First Street SE.